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ABSTRACT

Agricultural education projects of 23 state action groups and 4 national organizations are described in this directory intended for agricultural educators. Names and addresses of contact points for further information are included. (DC)

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AG IN THE CLASSROOM--WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE COUNTRY

States have started state action groups, national organizations are doing educational projects, and there is much activity around the country. Here's a recap of what we know with names and addresses for more information.

The Farm Bureau

Marsha Herndon, Director of Farm Bureau Women's Programs, has been appointed to fill an additional role as coordinator of education activities, announced American Farm Bureau Federation President Robert Delano.

One of her major activities in this added role will be working with an AFBF staff committee in developing a suggested plan for state farm bureaus to become involved in a program promoting an understanding of agriculture n the schools.

Farm Bureau has already called together education leaders to get their advice on possible Farm Bureau initiatives. The Bureau has asked each state to assign a person to find out about and encourage school-directed activities in his or her state.

This group of education coordinators met this May in St. Louis to share information and begin to plan their state activities. In many states, meetings have been held to train and involve county level members.

American Farm Bureau Federation has developed a handbook for state Farm Bureau coordinators for agricultural education. The handbook helps the coordinator get Farm Bureau membership involved in Agriculture in the Classroom.

Farm Bureau also co-sponsored a booth on Agriculture in the Classroom at the National Education Association convention June 29 and 30 in Philadelphia.

For a list of state coordinators and more information on Farm Bureau's activities, write to:

Marsha Herndon
American Farm Bureau Federation
225 W. Toughy Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
(312) 399-5764

Meat economics program begins

Development of a classroom educational program to increase knowledge of the economics of agriculture, using the meat industry as a case study, has been started by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

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The program is being funded by a special grant from the National Live Stock Producers Association.

Materials for the first phase of the program are geared toward elementary school students in grades 4-6, and include a filmstrip and related print materials. This kit will be available for distribution in the fall of 1983. Development of the second phase, directed at students in grades 7-9, will begin in the summer of 1983, and production of the third phase, for grades 10-12 and adults, will begin in 1984.

All materials produced will be reviewed by an advisory committee made up of educators and specialists in economics and agriculture, who will check accuracy of content and determine effectiveness among students.

This past December and January, a writing team of teachers developed a series of classroom activities which are currently being reviewed by the advisory committee and numerous other experts in agriculture, economics, and education.

Meat Board Director of Education Barbara Hicks said the new program is important because of the "serious lack of knowledge among the American people of economic principles in agriculture."

The Illinois Council on Economic Education is coordinating the development and evaluation components of the program for the Meat Board.

Porkettes storybook

The Meat Board, with funding from the National Porkettes, is developing a storybook for primary grade students on the interdependence between farm and city. The Meat Board is currently searching for a qualified children's author to write the book. The book will be accompanied by a teacher's guide and student activities. For more information, contact:

Barbara Hicks
National Live Stock and Meat Board
444 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 467-5520

FFA efforts nationwide

The Future Farmers of America have had an effort underway since 1975 called "Food For America." The program is designed for kindergarten through the third grade and was professionally produced to insure that it incorporates correct elementary skills into the educational activities promoting all facets of agriculture.

All 8,350 FFA chapters across America can become involved in your state efforts. The state FFA advisor in the state department of education can provide you with names of chapters in your state to assist in teaching elementary students as well as assisting as a

resource person for your state efforts. In addition, agriculture education professors in your agriculture universities can help assist state efforts by acting as a resource person.

The Ag in America's Classrooms movement has been increasing the popularity of the Food For America program, which is presently being reprinted. The Food For America kits contain a K-3 Teachers Activity Resource Guide, five teacher's brochures, and a how-to-do-it booklet. The kits are free up to four kits, after that, they are $5.25/kit up to 50, and for quantities over 50, they are $4.75. The kits may be ordered through the National FFA Supply Service, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309, (703) 780-5600.

National Association of Wheat Growers

Agriculture in the Classroom is one of the high priorities of the Wheat Growers. On July 9, at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, representatives from 16 wheat states were extensively briefed on the Ag in the Classroom program. They were encouraged to take an active part in their state action groups working with their departments of agriculture and education and other farm and commodity groups. For more information, contact:

Bill Brown
National Association of Wheat Growers
415 2nd Street, NE
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-7800

or

Betty Carlson
Valby Road
Box 295
Ione, Oregon 97843
(503) 422-7282

Alabama

Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture Albert McDonald called the first state Agriculture in the Classroom planning meeting on June 23, 1983.

Representatives from WIFE, Farm Bureau Cowbelles, FFA, Extension and the Department of Agriculture attended. The meeting was to brief the various groups on the program nationally and discuss the potentials for Alabama.

Another meeting to bring together more farm grops will take place September 8. For more information, contact:

Mrs. Sydney Beck
Alabama WIFE
Route 1, Box 28
Pansey, Alabama 36370
(205) 522-3639

California

The California Farm Bureau has long been involved in Agriculture in the Classroom. This fall they pulled together 35 representatives from 27 agricultural groups around the state to discuss how those groups might get more involved in Agriculture in the Classroom. These groups have now set up a resource advisory committee which will meet during the year to discuss what resources are available to promote agriculture in California classrooms. This will help all agricultural groups work together and not duplicate efforts.

The Farm Bureau's recent activities include the development of a 22-page teacher's resource guide which includes lesson plans, audiovisuals, and print materials available to California teachers. It is being distributed to educators across the state. The Farm Bureau also is continuing "Farm Day in the Schools" in San Francisco and Los Angeles. They have also developed an upper elementary/junior high curriculum called "Focus on Agriculture," and an eight-minute slide/tape on California's agriculture for use in high schools and teacher training.

In teacher training, the Farm Bureau has developed a one-credit course and a two-hour lecture course with a Saturday field trip for the students. This lecture/field trip experience is now required for all teacher-candidate students attending San Francisco State University at the request of the University. The course will be offered in the future at other schools across the state.

For more information on California, contact:

Mark Linder
California Farm Bureau
1601 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, California 95815
(916) 924-4380

California Women for Agriculture are active in schools across the state. Most of the 30-plus chapters have some kind of school-directed program. For example, in San Joaquin County, members go into third grade classes with a puppet show and coloring book. This year they visited 132 classes in 50 schools reaching nearly 4000 young people.

For more information, contact:

Ms. Laura Tower
California Women for Agriculture
17265 East Highway 4
Stockton, California 95205
(209) 465-4840

Colorado

In Colorado, the state action group includes members from the departments of agriculture and education, as well as farm and commodity organizations, Extension Service, and Soil Conservation Service. The group formed last spring and as its first project decided to develop the Colorado Reader, an eight-page magazine for upper elementary students on Colorado agriculture. They've put out three issues so far, the first on harvest time which coordinated with the state fair and the second on the culture, lifestyle and history of farming and ranching in Colorado. The third issue of the Reader focused on conservation and land use. All three publications won an Award of Excellence, the highest award given by the National Association of State Education Information Officers.

In teacher training, the Department of Agriculture is working with the Soil Conservation Service and last year sponsored two three-day one-graduate-credit workshops on conservation and land use, including field experience and curricular workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to teach an appreciation of our dependence on our soil and water for our food supply. Over 125 teachers have participated. Currently the state action group is looking for funding to continue with the Colorado Reader and to develop a curriculum guide for middle schools (grades 5-8). The theme of the curriculum will be "Food, Land and You."

For more information, contact:

Ms. Helen Davis
Food and Consumer Specialist
CO Department of Agriculture
1525 Sherman
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866-3561

Idaho

Several groups are working together under the direction of the Department of Agriculture to form a state task force. They include the Idaho Cooperative Council, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Women for Agriculture, and others. They have done background research on Agriculture in the Classroom activities around the country in order to get a focus on what they might do in Idaho. Rick Waitley reports that they have been extremely pleased by the cooperation of states and organizations around the country who have sent material and provided advice.

The Farm Bureau is planning an Ag in the Classroom session for its State Women's Conference. For more information, contact:

Mr. Rick Waitley
Idaho Cooperative Council
2638 Rebecca Way
Meridian, Idaho 83642

Illinois

Illinois has a state action group with membership from boards of education, agricultural groups, and the Illinois Council on Economic Education. They have developed a draft set of bylaws for organizing a not-for-profit cooperation that will be the vehicle from which the state action group will receive support to initiate and monitor programs. Papers have been filed with the Secretary of State's office and the IRS. They expect to be able to operate as a not-for-profit corporation by January 1984.

Presently they have an ad hoc nominating committee which is soliciting farm, agri-business, and education groups to become members of the organization when it is formed.

The Illinois Council on Economic Education has this year developed and offered an awareness conference on the economics of agriculture to teachers. Fifty-five elementary and secondary teachers attended the first all-day workshop. They heard about the role and importance of agriculture, listened to a panel of experts talk about agricultural problems at present and in the future, and reviewed existing material available to teach agriculture in the classroom.

The Illinois Women for Agriculture continues to distribute their Agri-Data kit to schools across the state.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Dwight Dunbar
State Task Force Chairman
Executive Director, IL
Fertilizer & Chemicals Assn.
P.O. Box 357
Springfield, Illinois 62705
(217) 782-2172

Dr. John Lewis
Executive Director
IL Council on
Economic Education
Northern IL University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
(815) 753-0356

Mrs. Jean Ibendahl
IL Women for Agriculture
Route 1
Tamaroa, Illinois 62888
(618) 496-3125

Indiana

Indiana had its first statewide meeting July 8, 1983. At this meeting, all the groups reported on their school-directed activities. The attendees discussed methods of working together and made plans to have a statewide steering committee.

The Farm Bureau is doing a program on agriculture and nutrition for K-4. They have trained members to go into the schools and have reached 34,000 kids so far. The program is a 30-minute presentation featuring puppets, toy farm machinery, farm commodities, and end products. When in a school, a volunteer would typically visit as many as six classes per day.

For information, contact:

Ms. Judity Carley
Director of the Women's Department
Indiana Farm Bureau
130 E. Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 263-7831

Iowa

Iowa has formed a state action group, which is an outgrowth of a coalition of groups that have worked together before. The coalition includes commodity groups, Farm Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture, and the Iowa Development Commission. They have developed a fourth, fifth and sixth grade curriculum guide on Iowa and American agriculture. This guide was done by educators at Iowa State University, paid for by the above groups. The 150-page activity-filled guide has been distributed to about 80 percent of all schools in the state.

To accomplish this distribution, a committee was formed in each county of active agricultural women's groups, then these women were trained on how to approach a principal, how to talk to teachers, what to tell them about the guide and its use in schools. This training was done by the state action group last July so that the distribution could start before schools opened this past fall.

Iowa State Unviersity is conducting an evaluation of the project to see if teachers are using the guide and what revisions need to be made. The evaluation will take place this spring. Iowa's next project will be computer related. It will be based on the original guide and will be for grades four, five and six. It will be on floppy disks and include games and activities in math and social studies.

Again, Iowa State will develop the materials and the state action group will provide funding. To encourage participation in Agriculture in the Classroom activities, Governor Terry Branstad declared April 28, 1983 Agriculture in the Classroom Day.

Kansas

Kansas has a task force with 21 members; representatives of departments of agriculture and education, elementary school principals association, farm women's groups, commodity groups, a member of the state legislature, and agricultural industry. Barbara Moyer, Kansas Farm Bureau, is chairperson.

The state action group has two objectives: 1) to develop an understanding and appreciation for the food chain, 2) to promote the well-being of agriculture. The seven basic concepts in the USDA state action plan were adopted. They have sub-committees on materials, curriculum, distribution, immediate special projects and finances.

This year they are involved in a publicity campaign on the program. They have done news releases, an exhibit, and met with the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives Agriculture Committees.

For more information contact:

Ms. Barbara Moyer
Kansas Farm Bureau
2321 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(913) 537-2261

Mr. Randy Tosh
Executive Assistant
Kansas Cooperative Council
700 Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603
(913) 233-4085

Maine

There are several projects in Maine. The Governor's Rural Development Committee is developing a piece of legislation they plan to introduce to the state legislature which will require the Department of Education to prepare curriculum materials for non-vocational agriculture students to help those students increase their understanding and appreciation of agriculture. "The proposed legislation includes provision of matching funds to get the job done," according to Chaitanya York of Maine's Department of Agriculture.

Another state group, the Agriculture Education Executive Committee, which has representatives from both agriculture and education departments, is looking at a proposal to develop a resource inventory of materials that could be used in classrooms to teach about agriculture to all students. They are also considering preparing supplementary materials on agriculture for the Maine studies program which is taught in fourth grade and again in either seventh or eighth grade.

Buckfield, Maine has a K-8 project. They will develop two-four units for fifth, sixth and seventh grades on dairy, and first-third grade teaching materials on plants. The materials will teach reading, writing and math, along with information about agriculture. Funding is from the private sector, the Foundation

for Permanent Agriculture in Augusta, Maine. The materials will be written in cooperation with the teachers of Buckfield, Maine.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Chaitanya York
Director, Division of Resource Development
Maine Department of Agriculture
Food and Rural Resources
State House, State 28
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 289-3511

Massachusetts

Massachusetts has had an active state action group for over a year. They have a logo and printed stationery. The task force surveyed Massachusetts elementary principals on what information educators would like about agriculture, there were over 140 responses.

From this research, the task force decided to develop fourth-sixth grade teaching materials on agriculture to fit into social studies, math or science classes. The task force obtained funding for the project from the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Dairy Industry Promotion Committee for the project.

This funding has been used to hire a curriculum development specialist who will have the teaching package ready to test by January 1984. For more information, contact:

John Sterling
4-H Leader
University of Massachusetts
Stockbridge Hall
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003
(413) 545-2646

Mississippi

Mississippi Farm Bureau, with the state departments of education and agriculture, are pulling together a state action group. Letters have gone out to farm groups across the state and a first planning and familiarization meeting is planned for early September. For more information, contact:

Helen Jenkins
Mississippi Farm Bureau
6310 I 55th North
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
(601) 957-3200

Missouri

A state task force is in the planning stages. Representatives for the Missouri Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture and Education have met to begin planning.

In August, a task force representing all major farm organizations, agriculture banking, extension and the university will be appointed. For more information, contact:

Margaret Schowengerdt
Missouri Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 658
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(314) 893-1402

Montana

Montana has had an active state action group since December 1983. It's called Agriculture in Montana Schools. They have adopted a logo and are reviewing materials of what other states are doing as they plan their program. They will develop teaching materials focusing on the economics of agriculture. They have decided to target fourth grade to begin with.

They plan to pilot whatever they do in both rural and urban school settings. For more information, contact:

Tom Bishop
Department of Agriculture
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620-0204
(406) 449-3144

Minnesota

The Governor's Council is sponsoring a Minnesota Agricultural Land curriculum for grades K-6. An experienced curriculum writer is currently working on the project with the cooperation of farm organizations and educators. In the fall, the Governor's Council, Minnesota Women for Agriculture, soil conservation and other farm groups will together do in-service teacher training on this and other curriculum materials. One of the materials will be the Minnesota Women for Agriculture's fourth and fifth grade curriculum package called Agri-School. This package, completed last year, is now in many schools. Minnesota Women for Agriculture are now developing K-9 materials. The target date for completion is December.

Governor's Council, along with developing the Ag-land curriculum and doing teacher training, is also running a grant program for local and statewide projects to promote rural development. Agriculture in the Classroom projects within Minnesota are eligible to apply. Overall, the Governor's Council will give out $335,000 to state and local projects.

For more information on the Agri-School curriculum, contact:

Ms. Linda Wright
P.O. Box 70068
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
(612) 296-2229

On Governor's Council activities, contact:

Ms. Glynnis Jones
Governor's Council on Rural Development
Room 100
480 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 297-3546

Nebraska

In Nebraska, the departments of agriculture and education are working together with farm and commodity groups on their Agriculture in the Classroom program. They have formed a state action group and had a statewide meeting in December. At that meeting they decided to work through the Department of Education to reach the schools. This year the state action group worked through the Department of Education and did in-service training with teachers to acquaint them with Agriculture in the Classroom and what can go on in their classes. The state action group also plans to work with agricultural groups, school boards and educators to make them aware of the program. They have developed the following mission and goals statement, which outlines their program:

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that our elementary and high school students, as part of their basic instruction, learn about the fundamental issues of agriculture.

GOALS

1. Develop Ag in the Classroom Task Force - A broad-based, non-partisan, volunteer task force comprised of agricultural representatives, educators, consumers and state and federal officials. Done

2. Develop training program to be available for all Nebraska teachers on the subject of agriculture. Teacher Training Committee

3. Develop agricultural curriculum materials to be used in Nebraska's K-12 curriculum. Research Committee and Curriculum Development Committee

4. Maintain an updated list of agricultural curriculum materials and information for Nebraska schools. Resources Committee

5. Maintain a recommended list of agricultural curriculum materials. Implementation, Distribution and Evaluation Committee

6. Develop an annual survey to measure progress of Ag in the Classroom program in Nebraska schools. Implementation, Distribution and Evaluation Committee

7. Develop awareness of Ag in the Classroom program with all Nebraskans. Mutual Awareness Committee

Two years ago the Departments of Agriculture and Education jointly developed a resource guide to materials about agriculture available to Nebraska teachers. This is still being distributed.

For more information, contact:

Mr. David Bohling
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 94947
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(402) 471-2341

New Jersey

New Jersey has established a state action group which includes representatives from all the major agricultural organizations, Departments of Education and Agriculture, the school board association, ag college and education. The group has been meeting regularly since the regional meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania last August. Regular reports are being given to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture, which oversees the Department of Agriculture. Faith Goldstein of the Department of Agriculture notes, "There is great interest and support in Agriculture in the Classroom. New Jersey sees this as an ongoing program which will constantly be expanded over the years."

Some current projects include:

1. A resource manual for teachers is now being developed with the cooperation of all agricultural groups in the state. This manual will help teachers to easily introduce agriculture into their classrooms whether it be in math, geography, history or food production and distribution. The resource manual will include lists of materials and films, speakers, speakers' bureaus, farm tours and brochures. It will key on local resources telling teachers what is available within a one hour drive of their school. This manual will be for K-6 grades. The manual will be ready for distribution in the fall.

2. In May, the New Jersey Agricultural Society conducted a one-day teacher tour of Morris County. Fifty-five teachers went on a six-hour tour to show them what is

going on in their own surrounding area. The tour included a visit to a horse farm, a vegetable farm completely surrounded by industry and homes, and one of the few remaining rose growers in New Jersey. The state action group prepared background material for the tour. After this pilot tour, New Jersey plans three teacher tours per year in various areas of New Jersey. The goal is the educate 500 teachers in the next five years.

3. Their will be a conference in the fall of 1983 for principals, superintendents, members of school boards, and teachers.

For more information, contact:

Ms. Faith Goldstein
Coordinator, Ag Development
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
CN 330
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
(609) 984-2520

North Dakota

North Dakota has put together a stae action group and its first project is developing a 32-page tabloid on North Dakota agriculture. This tabloid will be ready for fall of 1984. Coca-Cola will deliver the tabloid to the communities.

They plan other curriculum projects for the future. The Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota has, for several years, been doing teacher training for elementary and secondary teachers on the economics of agriculture and agriculture in North Dakota. This June they took 30 teachers on a four-day trip to North Dakota's farms and agri-businesses. The Farmer's Union donated a bus, and other farm groups cooperated. Along with the visits, the educators had sessions on the basic economics of agriculture, heard speakers from various North Dakota commodities and agriculture industries, and had a chance to discuss how they might fit more about agriculture into the classes they teach. Ms. Cleo Cleveland, Center Director, hopes to be able to offer this course to teachers outside of North Dakota in the summer of 1984 if funding can be found. The Farm Bureau women also are interested in Agriculture n the Classroom. They have been meeting to develop plans for their involvement.

For more information about activities of the state action group, contact:

Ms. Lori Kyser
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
(701) 224-2231

For more information about the teacher training project, contact:

Ms. Cleo Cleveland
Director
Center for Economic Education
University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202
(701) 777-2637

Ohio

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is putting together a task force on agriculture awareness and education. One of the subcommittes will be Ag in the Classroom. A meeting will be held in September. For more information, contact:

Ms. Robin Anderson
Administrative Assistant
Ohio Department of Agriculture
65 S. Front St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 866-6361

Oregon

Oregon has a very active statewide group. They had 125 people at a state organization meeting in November and created four basic committees: textbook adoption, resource guide, national liaison, and curriculum. There was another meeting April 29.

They have presented testimony at the Oregon Textbook Commission, which is now considering the adoption of social studies texts and met with favorable response. The action group is considering setting up a network of farm people available in each school disctrict. They are also considering putting together a resource manual of publications that can be used by teachers. The Task Force Executive Committee also plans to act as a resource and advisory group to ag groups, business and educators around the state who are thinking about developing educational materials or programs.

They are also working with a project called "Get Oregonized," which works with school districts to develop curriculum materials that fit into science and social studies to teach about forestry, agriculture, and marine studies.

Oregon Women for Agriculture continues to have success with their 5-6 grade Farm and Agriculture Resource Manual.

For more information of state activities, contact:

Mr. Matt Weimar
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St.
Salem, Oregon

For more information on Farm and Agriculture Resource Manual, contact:

Ms. Deanna Dyksterhuis
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Route 3, Box 541
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has a state task force. Pennsylvania will develop a K-12 curriculum outline. The major topics will be careers; agribusiness economy; agriculture and history; agriculture and community; food, technology and society; agriculture and geography; agriculture and environment. The Departments of Education and Agriculture will jointly develop the curriculum outline, which will be ready by January. Then in the spring, the state task force will develop specific school-directed materials. In the summer and fall of 1984, the project will move into the classrooms.

Meanwhile, there is growing interest in Agriculture in the Classroom around Pennsylvania. In Berks County, the Agri-Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce, with the Pennsylvania Council on Economic Education, began a "spokesperson for agriculture training" program to help farm people learn how to speak to school and community groups. They also have developed a four-hour Agriculture in the Classroom in-service teacher traning unit for elementary and secondary teachers.

They are planning more teacher training workshops for the summer. These workshops will give background information on agriculture and tie it to basic economic concepts that teachers want to teach as part of basic economic literacy. The teachers will also have a chance to develop materials and lesson plans they can take back and use in their classrooms.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Association (Farm Bureau) is committed to Agriculture in the Classroom. The Mercer County Farmers Association has a grade 1-3 curriculum. Last fall, the Farmers Association women's leadership people participated in a workshop on Agriculture in the Classroom, taught by Marsha Herndon of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and Sally Katt of USDA.

Pennsylvania's Agri-Women, working with the Farmers Association, county extension, and vo-ag teachers have developed, tested, and distributed a fourth grade curriculum on Pennsylvania agriculture

called Agri-learn. Five hundred kits have been distributed around the state.

For more information on the development of a state action group, contact:

For state activity:

Ms. Joyce Freeman
PA Dept. of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

For Pennsylvania Agri-Women:

Ms. Gail McPherson
Maple Lawn Farms
New Park, PA 17352
(717) 382-4878

For Berks County projects:

Ms. Carolyn Holleran
B.C.I.U.
2900 St. Lawrence St.
Reading, PA 19606
(215) 779-7111, ext. 42

For the Farmers Assn.:

Mr. Mel Eckhaus
Director, Program Development
PA Farmers Association
510 S. 31st St.
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 761-2740

South Dakota

South Dakota has created a state action group, which includes representatives from the departments of agriculture and education and various farm and commodity groups. About 30 organizations. total. The Department of State Development is also involved. They have had several meetings. They have decided to produce a curriculum guide in outline form for grades 4-6, with a resource list keyed to the outline.

Some of the topics will include livestock, crops, economics and consumer education, environment and climate, transportation, history and geography. The topics are basically keyed to the concepts listed in the USDA state action plan. The curriculum guide will also include speakers and materials available to South Dakota teachers. The work is being done out of the Department of Agriculture with the cooperation of all groups.

Mike McNamara of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture said, "The Department of Education surveyed teachers of grades 4-6 through the state and found only 20-25 percent of them are aware and/or using agriculture materials. This includes materials that are largely nutrition. If you take the nutrition out of it, the figure falls to less than 10 percent in a state where agriculture is the leading industry by far." Mr. McNamara continues: "The South Dakota action group intends to fill this gap and feels they will be able to because of the enthusiasm of participating groups and the strong support of the State Secretary of Agriculture.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Mike McNamara
Rural Development Analyst
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Anderson Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
(605) 773-3375

Washington state

In Washington state, under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture, an all-commodities commission committee is working on Agriculture in the Classroom projects. This group includes a representative from the Department of Education. The committee is recommending that their first project be joint with the Washington State Council on Economic Education. The Washington State Council has a newsletter going to 5,000 teachers across the state who are interested in economic education and have attended teacher training sessions in the past. The fall 1983 issue of the newsletter, which will include lesson plans for elementary and secondary level, will be on agriculture and its economic implications.

To increase the scope of participation in the state, the committee recommends that a state action group be funded, at least in part, from a membership charged to the organizations. Finally, the committee recommends that the state action group itself produce a newsletter with lesson plans similar to the Washington State Council newsletter and distribute it to teachers on a regular basis.

For more information, contact:

Ms. Shirley Zoro
Washington State Dept. of Agriculture
406 General Admissions Building AX-41
Olympia, Washington 98504

Wyoming

There is a state task force with members from Departments of Education and Agriculture, a representative from the Governor's office, and former chairman of the Wyoming House Education Committee. The task force has been working for about a year. They are now in the fund-raising stage. They are looking for funding for the development of a fifth grade curriculum. The curriculum will start with fifth graders because the history of Wyoming is taught for the first time at that grade level.

The task force's goal is an artistically attractive package, with reproducibles for lessons, posters, available "hands-on" tours for ranches for various parts of the state. They are working with Cowbelles to set up tours for ranches, and WIFE members for farm tours. Overall, the curriculum will look at farming and

ranching in Wyoming, including a historical and geographical approach, which fits in with what fifth grade teachers want to teach. They will start working this summer, hoping to have it available next year. After development of the fifth grade project, Wyoming is looking towards a package for the eighth grade, where state history is taught, and in later years plans to develop materials for high school economics classes.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Collin Fallat
Chariman, Planning and Development Division
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
(307) 777-6576